

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 759

By Pleasant

A RESOLUTION to honor William Martin Woods on the occasion  
of his retirement from the Memphis Fire  
Department after 33 years of exemplary service.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Mr. Woods was born on August 14, 1947 to loving parents, John and Bessie Woods; and

WHEREAS, he attended Germantown High School and excelled in numerous extracurricular activities including basketball, in which he earned All-District and All-County honors; he also participated on the Germantown High School Track and Field Team in which he placed second in the district, second in the in the region, and participated in the State Track Meet in the high jump; and

WHEREAS, four years after graduating from Germantown High School, William Woods joined the City of Memphis Fire Department in 1969 and has diligently served in this capacity for 33 years; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable 33-year career; he has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his peers and superiors alike; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a firefighter, William Woods has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and is an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, he is an invaluable member of the community, participating in several civic organizations including the International Association of Firefighters Local #1784, and he has participated in the lives of numerous young people through coaching various athletic teams including volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Woods served his country with honor and dignity as he is a Veteran of the United States Army Reserves; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Woods' remarkable success as a public servant is directly attributable to his unswerving reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, William Woods is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, he is a member of the Sycamore View Church of Christ, where he has served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Woods is fortunate to share love and companionship with his loving wife, Martha Diane Roberson Woods; they will celebrate their thirtieth year of marriage on July 22, 2002; and

WHEREAS, he is also the proud and devoted father of two children, Leslie Diane and Kevin Martin; and

WHEREAS, he exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. William Martin Woods has served the Memphis Fire Department, the City of Memphis, and his family with honor, loyalty, dignity, and selfless devotion and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend our thanks to Mr. William Martin Woods for his 33 years of outstanding service to the Memphis Fire Department and we also extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.